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Economic and Social Council

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Statistical Commission
Thirty-ninth session
26-29 February 2008
Agenda item 7
Report of the Commission on its thirty-ninth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Péter **Pukli** (Hungary)

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its thirty-ninth session at United Nations Headquarters from 26 to 29 February 2008. The Commission held ___ meetings (1st to ___).

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of 24 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-Member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.3/2008/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 26 February 2008, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson:	Pali Lehohla (South Africa)
Vice-Chairpersons:	Heli Jeskanen-Sundström (Finland) Héctor Maldonado Gómez (Colombia) Ali Bin Mahboob bin Hassan (Oman)
Rapporteur:	Péter Pukli (Hungary)

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D. Agenda and organization of work

4. At its 1st meeting, on 26 February 2008, following statements made by the observer for Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and the representative of China, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.3/2008/1, as orally revised. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Items for discussion and decision:
   - (a) Programme review: employment statistics;
   - (b) Education statistics;
   - (c) International Comparison Programme;
   - (d) National accounts;
   - (e) Integrated economic statistics;
   - (f) Tourism statistics;
   - (g) Distributive trade statistics;
   - (h) Industrial statistics;
   - (i) International merchandise trade statistics;
   - (j) Statistics of human development;
   - (k) Collection and dissemination of statistics by the United Nations Statistics Division;
   - (l) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;
   - (m) Regional statistical development in Africa;
   - (n) Development indicators.
4. Items for information:
   - (a) Health statistics;
   - (b) Population and housing censuses;
   - (c) Round table on business survey frames;
   - (d) International merchandise trade statistics;
   - (e) Statistics of international trade in services;
   - (f) Ottawa Group on Price Indexes;
   - (g) Statistics of science and technology;
   - (h) Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics;
   - (i) Agricultural statistics;

(j) Environment statistics;

(k) Environmental accounting;

(l) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

(m) International economic and social classifications;

(n) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;

(o) Principles governing international statistical activities.

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the fortieth session of the Commission.

7. Report of the Commission on its thirty-ninth session.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session (E/CN.3/2008/L.1), as orally revised.

6. At the same meeting, the Commission invited the following organizations to participate as observers at its thirty-ninth session: the Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT); the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries; the Bank for International Settlements; the Banque Centrale des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (BCEAO); and the Pacific Community.

E. Documentation

7. The documents before the Commission at its thirty-ninth session are listed in annex ____ to the present report.